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FOREWARD

This little booklet was printed and published by the Eastern California History class of the Bigpine Unified High School, under the direction of Mr. Gwinn.

Its purpose is to revive local interest in historical landmarks and interesting places.

The pictures were copied by the students from early photographs. then transferred to linoleum blocks and printed

The descriptions were written by members of the class who were interested in literary expression.

Compliments of the Eastern California History class.

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BIGPINE GLACIER

Bigpine Glacier is on the eastern slope of the Sierras, just below the Palisades and is the largest California glacier. It is the most southernly glacier in the United States.

This Glacier is about two miles long, one mile wide and believed to be around 700 feet deep.

CRATER MOUNTAIN

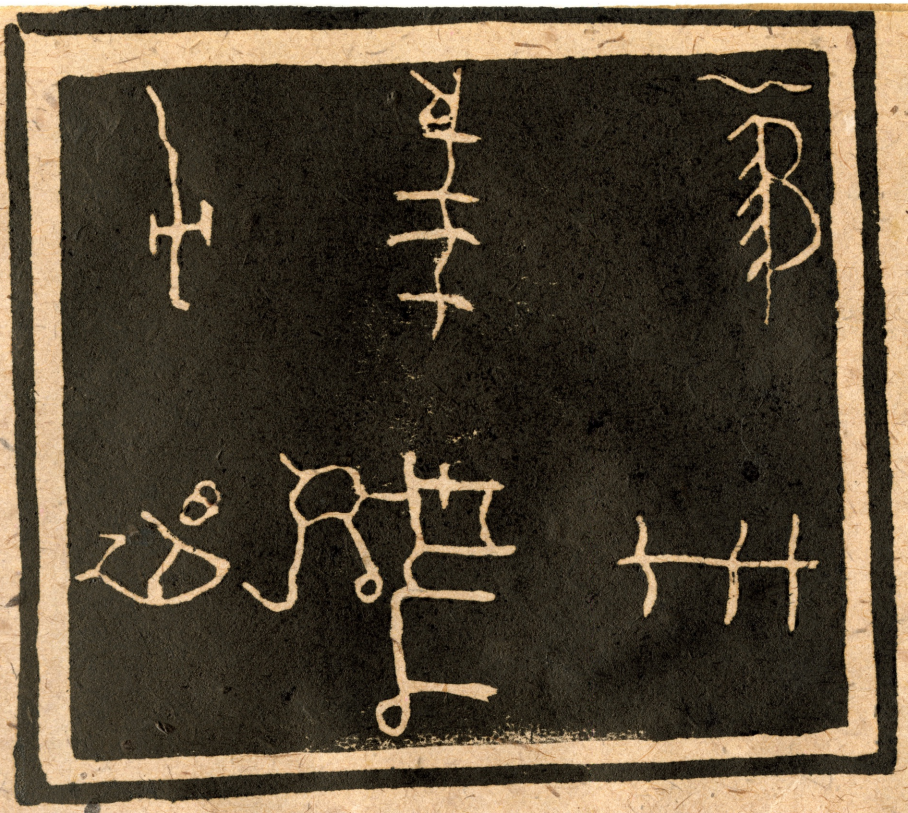
Crater Mountain, commonly known as Black Rock, stands directly south of Bigpine. This huge cone, approximately 60,000 years ago, was built up of explosive eruptions of molten lava while the coarser particles fell back to build the cone.

The strange lava fields surrounding this cone was the scene of many skirmishes between the Indians and Federal troops from the years of 1860- 1 to 1870.

BIGPINE CREEK

The source of Bigpine Creek is the vast ice field, Palisade Glacier. From this it winds itself in and out the many pines and finally after leaving the Sierras, its icy waters empty into Owens River.

Besides being the source of water supply for the town of Bigpine, this fish ladened stream lures many sportsmen each summer.



PETROGLYPHS AT FISH SPRINGS

About a quarter of a mile from the main highway, just before crossing Red Mountain Creek, to the left among numerous boulders are these carvings. They range from one-sixteenth to one-eighth of an inch in depth, and the weathering has rendered many of them indistinct.

They are similar to ones found all along the Pacific Coast from the Colombia River through Owens Valley and into Arizona.

The markings resemble lakes and streams; some of them might even be taken as pictures of persons, crudely drawn. All present day Piutes claim no knowledge of their meaning.

OWENS VALLEY PIUTES.

The Owens Valley Piutes are the southernmost of that widely distributed Shoshonean group, the Northern Piutes.

These Piute Indians nowllive in "camps" at each of the towns. Their livings are made by ranch and highway labor, occasional hunting, pinenut excursions and some seed gathering.

Their earlier arts included basketry, pottery work, and manufacturing of obsidian weapons and tools.

ARRASTRA

The Arrastra was an early form of a drag-stone mill. It was first used by the Mexicans in California to pulverize ores; later the Americans made use of it.

This one is located on Baker Creek about one Quarter of a mile from the County Farm on the west side of the Creek. It was used in the early days to crush gold ore brought from the White Mountains.

HOTEL BUTLER

The Hotel Butler was at one time the best
otel in Bigpine and well remembered for its
ospitality by early residents and visitors.

The veranda in the front of the hotel was
orn down first; then it was partially demolished
o make room for an auto camp.

This hotel was formerly owned by J. L. Butler,
e discoverer of Tonopah.

BIGPINE CHURCH

The Bigpine Church was built Aug. 4, 1896. There were two churches organized in Bigpine under the auspices of the Methodist Episcopal and the Presbytherian Churches respectively.

The Methodist Episcopal Church owned its property consisting of a Church and a parsonage, located in the center part of town. The Presbytherians met with their own group.

Preaching services were held every morning and evening each Sunday during the year.

At the present time the Methodist Church now known as the Bigpine Community Church is the only one functioning in the town. All denominations are welcome to the services held on Sunday evening, twice a month.

BIGPINE SCHOOL

The old Bigpine school consisted of a grammar and high school combined with three teachers employed for each. The building was erected in the latter part of the last century. It was neat and compact, but the rapid growth in population necessitated the building of the present school house.

After the completion of the new school, the old building was demolished, with the exception of the rear wing which was moved across the street and became an addition to the Bigpine Community Church.

GLACIER LODGE

Glacier Lodge lies at the foot of Kid Mountain eleven miles west of Bigpine in the high Sierras. It is surrounded on three sides by Mountains, and Bigpine Creek lies within a stone's throw of the Lodge.

Good cabins and camping spaces are available for each angler and hunter who cares to vacation there.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following bibliography has been prepared for those who are interested in seeking further light on Eastern California History.
light on

This books are in the Inyo County Library at Independence, and may be obtained through your local branch.

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These four pamphlets furnished interesting sidelights and photographs of Owens Valley between the years of 1900-1910.

From the collection of Wm. Kahl Jr.